

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 4, 18, 20, and 38-64; rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory; rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and objected to claim 18 as having a typographical error.

Regarding the indication of allowance, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants submit that the amendments (adding "storage") make claim 35 statutory, and therefore, the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the specification is replete with examples of support. For example, paragraph 0042 states that "The nodes can be implemented as an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or as combinations thereof." *See also* paragraph 0068 (stating "software, for instance, as an ASIC or a similar solution.") In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the specification provides support to claim 35, and, therefore, the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to claim 18, Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 18 obviates the basis of the objection.

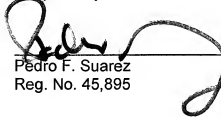
In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-35, and 38-64 are in immediate condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

No fee is believed to be due, however the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account 50-0311, Reference No. 39700-578N01US/NC23631US. If there are any questions regarding reply, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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